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TODAY IN SOCIETY

ALONG PARTY ROW

Italy Will Dominate International Ball

By SELWA ROOSEVELT

The International Ball, which for two years has been one of Washington's most dazzling social events, promises to outdo even itself this fall.

A sneak preview of what's in store for socialites next November 8 was given yesterday at a tea at the Sulgrave Club with Mrs. George Y. Wheeler II, chairman of the 1957 ball, as hostess.

Signora Brosio, wife of the Italian Ambassador, was guest of honor, for the November party will be "A Salute to Italy."

Mrs. Wheeler explained that in previous years the ball, held before the running of the International Race at Laurel, has tended to emphasize the horse racing angle.

The executive committee felt the International aspects of the ball could be better emphasized by focusing special attention on one particular country.

The Italian theme will be the inspiration for decorations to be planned by the well-known Valerian Rybar of New York, who will donate his time and efforts. (Incidentally, his glamorous decorations for the "April in Paris" ball in New York this spring resulted in a Hollywood contract for him.)

Still in the planning stage is the idea of using a "palio"—famous horse race held annually in Sienna, Italy—as the central idea for the entertainment and decorations. Mr. Ry-

bar has said he will go to Sienna and witness this year's "palio" with all its medieval pageantry which has continued to the present day.

Clare Booth Luce, former Ambassador to Italy, is making plans to be here as a guest of honor for this ball which annually raises thousands of dollars for the Children's Convalescent Hospital.

The ball will be at the Sheraton-Park Hotel, and Meyer Davis' orchestra, 28 pieces strong, will play. The dinner will feature an all-Italian menu.

Some of those attending may be fortunate to receive a special car called the Edsel, donated by Mr. Henry Ford; two round-trip tickets to Italy; gifts of the Scandinavian Airlines; or a color TV.

Famed Italian couturier, Fontana, will come to Washington for the party as well as design a special ball gown for the event.

Mrs. Wheeler has as her committee chairmen, Mrs. David S. Smith, vice-chairman; Mrs. Blair Childs, dinner; Mrs. William P. Arnold, publicity; Mrs. Norman Paul, entertainment; Mrs. Adrian S. Fisher, printing; Mrs. Eugene Carusi and Miss Julie Arnold, junior committee; Mrs. Middleton Train, reservations; Mrs. Frederick Merrill, invitations; Mrs. John Hamilton and Mrs. Joseph K. Rulon, arrangements; Mrs. Charles W. Price, decorations; Mrs. M.